

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A processing system and method for servicing legacy type hardware interrupt requests ("IRQs") and native type hardware IRQs. A processor receives a legacy type hardware IRQ during a native mode runtime of the processor. In response, the processor services the legacy type hardware IRQ received during the native mode runtime. The native mode runtime is a higher performance state of the processor than a legacy mode runtime of the processor defined by a number of bits processed in parallel.